

Amendments to the Claims:

1- 14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method of screening for a compound that inhibits the activity of a ~~the protein of claim 5~~ comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, comprising the steps of:

(a) culturing cells which express a ~~the protein of claim 5~~ comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or fragment thereof in the presence of a subject sample which contains at least one test compound;

(b) detecting the proliferation of the cells; and

(c) selecting the test compound that inhibits the proliferation as compared to the proliferation detected in the absence of the subject sample.

16-61 (Canceled)

62. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the compound is a small interfering RNA (siRNA)